

ney, — not "Whiting." It came into my hands at once, was preserved by myself, and is now in my collection. Great importance should not, of course, be attached to the closing sentence of the paragraph above quoted, which was based on the statements of a gunner not skilled in identifying birds, though undoubtedly truthful.—HENRY H. BROCK, *Portland, Me.*

Baird's Sandpiper in Michigan. — On August 20, 1895, Mr. Leon J. Cole and myself collected a female Baird's Sandpiper (*Tringa bairdii*) in Ottawa County, Michigan. This is the second or third, if not the first record of this bird's occurrence in the State. — W. E. MULLIKEN, *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes occidentalis*) more abundant than the Semipalmated (*E. pusillus*). — On Two-mile Beach, Cape May County, New Jersey, from the 1st to the 15th of September, 1895, I found both varieties of *Ereunetes* quite abundant in large flocks; and out of thirty-five specimens taken, twenty were unquestionably *occidentalis* and fifteen *pusillus*. The birds were all carefully measured and the colors noted. The bills of the so-called western variety varied from .87 to 1.07, males and females, ten measuring over 1.00, and the back of each was uniformly colored with a very reddish tinge.

The bills of the fifteen Semipalmated measured from .63 to .78, and were uniformly gray on the back, excepting three which had a slight tinge of red. I have never met with the western variety before, that is, to my knowledge, for it was only of late that I learned the difference, which is probably the excuse of many of us who otherwise might have found the bird just as common as I did. In the spring migration, and perhaps in the fall, I hope to look for it again.

Mr. Brewster mentions in 'The Auk' (Jan., 1889, p. 69) that a number of these birds (*occidentalis*) were taken by Mr. J. C. Cahoon on Monomoy Island, Mass., during July, August and September, 1888, and it may be that the bird is not nearly so accidental as it has been heretofore supposed. — W. M. L. BAILY, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Woodpeckers' Tongues — a Plea for Aid. — The tongues of our North American Woodpeckers are, as the readers of 'The Auk' well know, mostly barbed at the tip. Unless they have devoted some attention to the subject they may not, however, know that the tongue of young Woodpeckers are barbless, and that it is an interesting question just when the barbs make their appearance. The tongue of a full-fledged nestling of *Dryobates villosus*, a species whose tongue is remarkably well armed when adult, bears only fine reflexed hairs along the edge, and just at present no specimens are available to show when the barbs make their appearance. I should be greatly obliged to any readers of 'The Auk' who may collect any young Woodpeckers during the year, especially such as are about to leave, or have recently left the nest, if they will kindly send me the tongues. It

is an easy matter to save them when making a skin, and no preparation is necessary other than to allow the tongue to dry, as a little soaking will restore the tongue nearly to its fresh condition.—F. A. LUCAS, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Pinicola enucleator in Westchester County, N. Y.—Some two miles northeast from Sing Sing, N. Y., on February 12, 1896, I shot a male Pine Grosbeak in high plumage. The bird was in one of a few pine trees in a considerable grove of cedars. Careful search in the vicinity failed to reveal others.—L. S. FOSTER, *New York City.*

The Pine Grosbeak at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—The Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) have been very numerous in the grounds surrounding Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, this winter. They were attracted perhaps by the large number of spruce trees growing there which seem to offer them very palatable food. They have created quite a havoc among these trees. Early in the winter as I was walking among the evergreens, I found the snow literally carpeted with tips of the spruce trees and fragments of buds and seeds. On examining the twigs I found that the buds were eaten and that there were indications of pecking at the points of separation. I had never seen the ground so covered, and perceived at once that there was some unusual cause for such devastation. I looked about among the trees but saw only a pair of Kinglets, and I could not in conscience charge them with such wholesale destruction. I therefore suspected the Pine Grosbeaks, and my suspicion was later confirmed by my catching them in the very act. This flock has consisted almost entirely of young males and females, as is usually the case. One red male was noted early in January feeding with the flock, and later another was found dead.

The weather has not been continuously severe, and the ground has not been covered with snow more than a week at a time. The Grosbeaks are still here, March 13.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) has also been seen this winter. It is an uncommon visitant in this vicinity.—CAROLINE E. FURNESS, *Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.*

The Pine Grosbeak (*P. enucleator*) in New Jersey.—On Sunday, March 8, 1896, while driving through Wortendyke, about two miles west from here, I saw two birds of this species in a fir tree by the roadside. There was no possibility of a mistake as I was within twenty feet and had a good view of them. They were either females or young males, and their thick bills and white wing bars were very noticeable. About an hour later, while in Allendale, I saw another of the same species in a small tree, bare of leaves, in a field adjoining the highway. Although I went over the same ground the two next following days I did not meet with any Pine Grosbeaks.—DELAGNEL BIERIE, *Ridgewood, N. J.*